

FALSE WALLS CONSISTING OF STRETCHED FABRIC AND JOINED BY AN  
INCLINED SEPARATING RIBBAND

This invention relates to a false wall consisting of a piece of fabric stretched around its periphery onto support elements fixed to the walls or the ceiling of a room.

Different types of false walls and particularly false  
5 ceilings are known, composed of a metallic ribband or a  
ribband made of a synthetic material provided with holding  
elements that will cooperate with complementary holding means  
provided around the periphery of the fabric. These holding  
means may be composed of visible ribbands, or as described in  
10 patent EP-B-0338925 of ribbands that are at least partly  
concealed from the eyes of users by the fabric itself.

When the surfaces of ceilings or walls are large,  
separating elements are arranged through these ceilings or  
walls, consisting of double ribbands that hold the fabric on  
15 both sides. Even when they make use of ribbands of the type  
mentioned above of the "invisible" type, these separating  
elements include a separation or space between two adjacent  
pieces of the fabric. Obviously, such a space is more  
acceptable when it is located around the periphery of the  
20 room, because it is less easily perceived by persons in the  
room.

The purpose of this invention is to divulge a separating  
ribband composed of so-called "invisible" sections to  
significantly reduce the gap between two adjacent elements of  
25 the fabric surface.

The subject of this invention is a false wall composed of  
a stretched piece of fabric held around its periphery by an  
edge that can be attached to ribbands fixed to the ceiling  
and/or the walls of a room, in which the ribbands comprise a  
30 holding arrangement consisting of two parallel flanges at a

spacing from each other, namely a first outer flange and a second lower inner flange that ends in a shoulder that extends towards the first flange and ends at a distance from it, to enable the edge to pass through, such that it can simply rest  
5 on the shoulder, characterised in that the ribband is composed of a base (B) and two holding arrangements, for which the flanges are inclined from the base such that the large flanges converge towards each other and that their ends are separated such that the distance between one large flange and the plane  
10 of the large flange in the opposite holding arrangement is equal to the distance separating the shoulder of the holding arrangement from the large flange associated with it.

The two holding arrangements will preferably be symmetrical about a plane perpendicular to the base and the  
15 flanges may be inclined by about  $45^\circ$  from the base.

Such a device has several advantages. Firstly, it means that a common space can be used to pass the peripheral edge of the fabric for each of the two holding arrangements.

This invention also enables the fitter to make a more or  
20 less pronounced curvature at the bottom of the two support elements, and to bring the ends of the highest flanges towards each other by a variable distance depending on the needs of the application considered.

In one embodiment of the invention, the base will be  
25 composed of a support plate, possibly provided with attachment elements on its face opposite the holding arrangements.

In one embodiment of the invention, the bottom of at least one of the large flanges will extend on the opposite side of the holding arrangements, by a flange perpendicular to  
30 the base. Preferably, the base of the two large flanges will thus be extended so that it can cooperate with a stirrup provided with a tie rod fixed to the ceiling of the room.

According to the invention, the separating ribband may be made in two parts that can be fixed together, particularly a plate common to their base.

We will now describe a non-limitative example of one  
5 embodiment of this invention with reference to the appended figures, wherein:

Figures 1 and 2 are sectional views of two embodiments of a separating ribband that holds two attachment edges of a fabric that are held on each side of the ribband.

10 Figure 3 shows a sectional view of another embodiment of a ribband according to the invention and means of holding it from the ceiling of a room.

Figure 4 shows a perspective view of the ribband and its suspension means shown in figure 3.

15 Figure 1 diagrammatically shows a false ceiling according to the invention that is composed of a separating ribband 1 that holds two stretched fabric elements, 3a and 3b respectively.

The separating ribband 1 that is preferably made from a  
20 ductile material such as aluminium enabling easy extrusion, essentially comprises a base plate 5 and two holding arrangements 7 that are symmetric about a plane P perpendicular to the base plate 5.

Each holding arrangement 7 is composed of two parallel  
25 flanges forming an angle of about  $45^\circ$  with the plate 5, namely a first outer flange 7a and a second inner flange 7b ending with a shoulder 9 extending towards the first flange 7a, the end of which is sufficiently far from the first flange (separation g) so that the edge 6 made around the periphery of  
30 the fabric 3 can be inserted between these two elements and that its free end is simply supported on the shoulder 9.

The spacing between the two ends of the two outer flanges 7a is such that it enables the insertion of the corresponding

edges 6 of the fabric elements 3a and 3b between the pairs of flanges 7a and 7b of the two holding arrangements 7. Preferably, this spacing will be approximately equal to the spacing  $g$  existing between the end of the shoulder 9 and the outer flange 7a. Preferably, the distance  $g$  between the end of a large flange 7a and the plane of the large flange 7a of the opposite holding arrangement 7 will be equal to the distance  $h$  separating the shoulder 9 of the opposite holding arrangement from the large flange 7a associated with it ( $h=g$ ).

10 It can thus be understood that the inclination of the two support elements 7 from the plane of the support plate 5 enables an entry passage for the edge that is common to the two pairs of flanges, so that this edge can be minimised.

According to the invention, this arrangement makes it possible to use the separating ribband 1 as a conventional ribband, since the user can choose either to begin by inserting the edge 6 into the separating ribband and stretching it onto the ribband on the opposite wall, or conversely, he can begin by inserting the edge into the opposite ribband and terminate by inserting it into the separating element after tensioning it.

The user can also use the device according to the invention if he wishes to adjust the existing space between the ends of the two outer flanges 7a, to bend the support plate so as to bring said ends towards each other or away from each other.

Thus as shown in figure 2, base B of the ribband may be interrupted at its centre by a "V" shaped notch.

As shown in figures 3 and 4, the base of each of the large flanges 7a extends opposite the holding arrangements 7 by a flange 10 perpendicular to the base B. The two flanges can cooperate with a stirrup 12 provided with a tie rod 14 fixed to the ceiling of the room, to support the ribband.

Obviously, the base plates may be provided with various attachment means to fix the separating ribband elements fixed to the ceiling or to a wall.

The separating ribband according to the invention could  
5 also be made in two parts, that will be arranged side by side on a support element.